

CHARLTON  
COMICS



# BLUE BEETLE

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
C.C.  
AUTHORITY  
CDC

THE MOOD IS MADNESS WHEN THE  
**BLUE BEETLE** MIXES IT WITH THE  
**MADMEN!**



RETAILERS: SEE PAGE 28 FOR  
SPECIAL DISPLAY ALLOWANCE PLAN

# EXCLUSIVE FUN PRODUCTS

*bymail*

## TRICK BASEBALL

It bounces cockeyed, curves, dips, impossible to catch. It's sure to send all the kids on the block chasing after it. There's a barrel of fun in every bounce of this amazing baseball.

No. 3020

50c



### X-RAY SPEX

A wonderful illusion to fool your buddies. Put them on now & that's really his skull you see inside his head! Prove to him you can see through anything.

No. 3014



### JOY BUZZER

Shake hands and watch your friend jump 6 feet high. Completely harmless.

No. 3005

50c



### BIKE SPEEDOMETER

How you can tell how fast you are going. Registers speeds up to 50 miles per hour. New built-in compass also shows in what direction you are traveling. Fits any bicycle. Attaches in seconds.

No. 3017

only 75c

### LOUD NOSE BLOWER

Blow your nose and it will sound like the roof caved in. Fits right in your handkerchief out of sight.

No. 3018

only 20c



### SHOW LIVE MONSTERS

SCARIEST LIVING Sensation of the century. 2 Monsters in full color. Comes complete with space extracolor and full accessory kit. Will grow green monster hair right before your eyes. Complete kit.

No. 3001

Only \$1.00



### FLY IN ICE

A plastic ice cube that looks like the real thing, only with a fly inside. Just place this in someone's drink when he isn't looking up.

No. 3011

only 25c



### SPIDER RING

This jumbo rubber spider with glowing eyes comes attached to an adjustable metal ring and is sure to scare everybody. Large size 2½" x 1 1/2". Made of flexible rubber.

No. 4006

only 45c



### PRANKSTER WHISTLE

Great gag in years. Just place inside any tail-pipe and watch the fun. As soon as he starts the car it will sound as if the whole motor fell out. It's a goner till completely harmless.

No. 302

50c



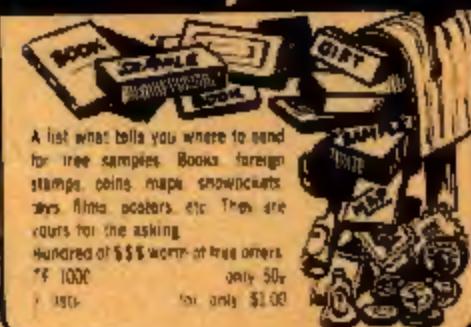
### TRICK BLACK SOAP

Ordinary looking piece of soap. Virtually washes face and gets blacker and blacker. When he gets a look in the mirror he'll be shocked. Harmless.

No. 681

Only 25c

## 1001 things for FREE!



A list what tells you where to send for free samples. Books, foreign stamps, coins, maps, showcards, etc., films, posters, etc. They are yours for the asking.

Hundreds of \$100 worth of free offers.

79-1000 only 50c

79-1001 for only \$1.00

### A MINIATURE MARVEL

Bigger than a small matchbook, but it pulls in newscasts, musical programs and sporting events... there are no batteries, no tubes to wear out! It's the most economical radio imaginable. So inconspicuous - comes with an ear-speaker for personal listening.

No. 3197 World's Tiniest Radio

50c



### SILVER SKULL RING

Heavy Mexican silver ring with the raised face of skull and three red ruby eyes. True 9000 and costs less impressive. Adds pizz to your hands.

No. 3019

31.00



### MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA

Precision camera so small it fits in cigarette pack. Weighs 2 1/2 ounces and takes 10 pictures per roll. Precision ground lens and time exposure shutter. Can be hidden anywhere. Complete with free roll of film.

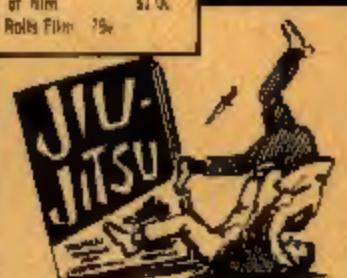
31.00  
6 Rolls Film 75c



### PEPPER GUM

Hi Pak have a piece of gum. Once he starts chewing you better have a glass of water ready. Completely harmless but a million laughs.

No. 3008 15c



### REGENCY MAIL ORDER DEPT. 5 GKB BOX 826 NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. 14302

RUSH ME THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW. If I am not 100% delighted, I may return any part of my purchase after the 10 day free trial for full refund.

ITEM NO. NAME OF ITEM HOW MANY TOTAL PRICE

I enclose  
order

plus 15¢ postage and shipping in cash, charged to business.

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

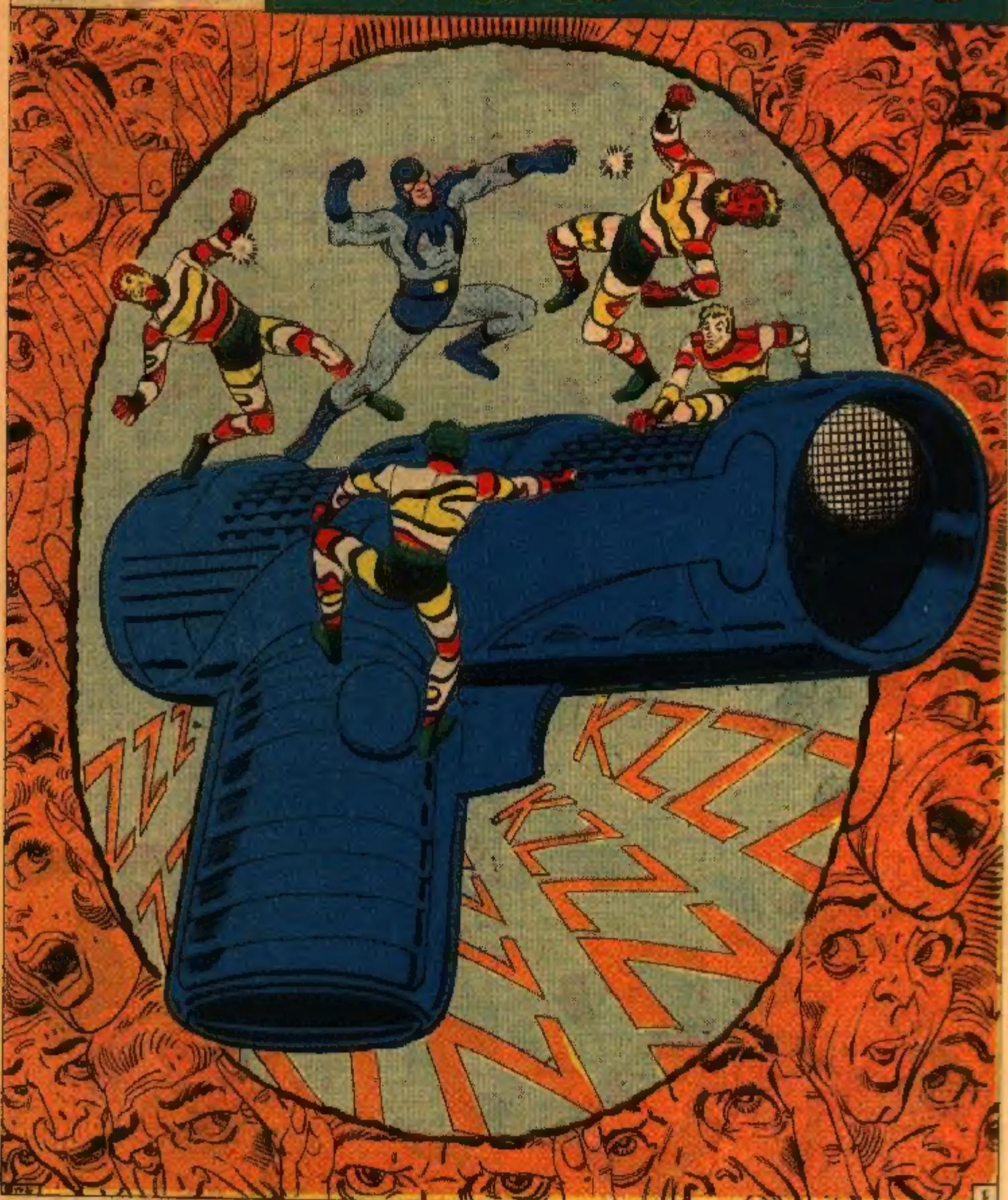
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# **the BLUE BEETLE**

PLOTTED & DRAWN BY:  
**STEVE DITKO**

SCRIPT BY:  
**D.C. GLANZMAN**  
LETTERED BY:  
**BOB AGNEW**

A REIGN OF FEAR AND  
MADNESS IS CREATED BY  
**THE MADMEN**



THE TIME: 2:30 P.M.  
THE PLACE: AN ALLEY  
IN HUB CITY—

LET'S GO, MADMEN!  
IT'S TIME FOR US  
TO GET TO WORK...  
AT THE BANK!

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE  
WITHDRAWING MONEY  
OTHER PEOPLE  
DEPOSIT!



THIS IS A FRIENDLY  
WARNING! DON'T  
ANYONE TRY  
ANYTHING AND  
NO ONE WILL  
GET HURT!

DON'T BOTHER TO HELP! WE  
LIKE TO DO THIS PART OUR-  
SELVES! IT MAKES US FEEL  
WE'RE EARNING  
THE MONEY WE  
TAKE!

THE BUGS ANTENNA PUT  
A FIX ON A GUN SHOT  
AND THERE'S A BANK  
IN THIS AREA! WITH  
THIS WEATHER IT  
CAN ONLY BE  
THE MADMEN!



THIS GUY'S NOT  
HERE TO MAKE  
A DEPOSIT --  
THROW HIM  
OUT!

WELL, THEY'RE READY  
FOR ANYTHING! I'LL  
SAY THAT  
FOR THEM

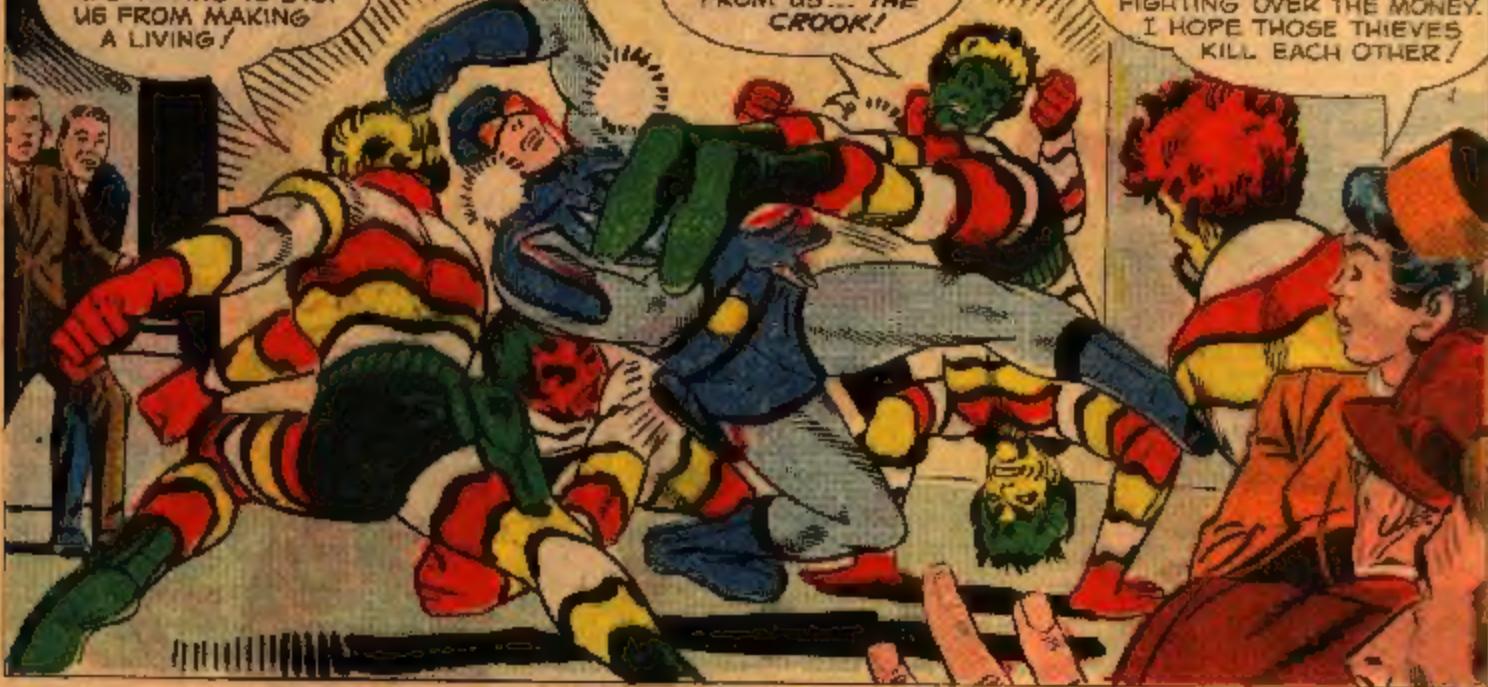
BUT EXPECTING THE UN-  
EXPECTED IS ALSO PART  
OF MY PROFESSION. WELL,  
BADMEN, HOW DID I  
HANDLE THAT?



GET HIM, MADMEN!  
HE'S TRYING TO STOP  
ME FROM MAKING  
A LIVING!

IT'S LIKE STEALING  
FROM US... THE  
CROOK!

DID YOU HEAR? THEY'RE  
FIGHTING OVER THE MONEY.  
I HOPE THOSE THIEVES  
KILL EACH OTHER!



LATER, AT THE MADMEN'S HIDEOUT!

ALL THE GUN DOES IS HUM! WHAT KIND OF WEAPON IS IT, ANYWAY?

THERE MUST BE SOME SPECIAL WAY TO FIRE IT... BUT HOW?

WELL, IT'S USELESS TO US, FLEETER. WE SHOULD LAY LOW... IDIOT! I'LL DO THE THINKING! SOON EVERYONE WILL KNOW WE HAVE THIS GUN BUT THEY WON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S CAPABLE OF DOING! THAT MAKES IT THE MOST DEADLY WEAPON THERE IS!

EVERYONE WHO FACES THIS GUN WILL BE OVERCOME BY THE HORROR OF WHAT IT MIGHT DO TO THEM! WAIT AND SEE!

THE BLUE BEETLE SHOULD BE ARRESTED FOR CARRYING A WEAPON. HE DOESN'T HAVE A LICENSE!

I HEARD ITS SOUND DRIVES MEN INSANE!

NOW, NO ONE IS SAFE/ THAT GUN IS A DEATH RAY!

TOP, COULDN'T YOU CALL THE PAPERS AND TELL THEM THE TRUTH ABOUT THE GUN?

THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME! NO, THE ONLY WAY IS TO GET THE GUN BACK MYSELF!

LOOK AFTER MY LAB, TRACEY. THE BLUE BEETLE HAS TO BE READY TO MOVE QUICKLY!

I'M SURE THE MADMEN WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF POSSESSING MY GUN AND STRIKE AGAIN ... SOON!

A SHORT TIME LATER AT A SAVINGS BANK...

THAT NOISE! IT'S THE BEETLE GUN! DON'T SHOOT!

DON'T DISINTEGRATE US! DON'T FIRE!



HA HA, NO ONE EVEN DARES TO LOOK DEFIDENT!

TURN THE GUN OFF! TAKE THE MONEY AND GO!

ANYONE WHO TURNS AROUND BEFORE WE'RE OUT OF HERE, I'LL FIRE AT FULL POWER AND...



# PLAY GUITAR IN 7 DAYS

OR YOUR MONEY BACK

Surprise your friends and relatives.  
Enjoy lots of fun and popularity. Be  
the one who always gets  
invited to parties.

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play the Guitar  
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now makes it possible  
for you to learn at home  
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knowledge whatever.

MAIL COUPON TODAY!

I PERSONALLY GUARANTEE COMPLETE  
SATISFACTION OR YOUR MONEY BACK

*Ed Sale*

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City, Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

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*World's Smallest Radio*

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- Lightweight — compact
- Magnetic earphones included
- Especially designed for local reception
- Guaranteed to receive 20 stations in your area
- Plays equally well indoors or outdoors

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COMPLETE

NOT A TOY  
A GENUINE RADIO

To Delight Every Man,  
Woman, Girl and Boy



SOLD ON  
MONEY-BACK  
GUARANTEE

ACTUAL  
SIZE

## FREE TRIAL OFFER

GAYCRAFT, Dept. R8-RA  
Box 826, Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Please rush on 10 day Free Trial the World's Smallest Radio. I must be 100% satisfied or my money will be refunded in full after 10 days.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose \$3.98 plus 25c postage

Be the first in your neighborhood to own this amazing Radio. Music, News, Sports now available to you 24 hours a day. Imagine being the proud owner of a radio less than 2 inches square.

A miniature marvel — no bigger than a small matchbox, but it picks in newscasts, musical programs and sporting events! It's the most economical radio imaginable! So inconspicuous — comes with an ear-speaker for personal listening. Took it in a shirt pocket or slip it in your purse — a great conversation piece everywhere!

The Radio is guaranteed to be shipped in perfect condition and especially designed for local reception. In some localities you can receive up to seven stations. Don't wait, rush your order today on money-back guarantee.

**GAYCRAFT**, BOX 826, NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.



THEY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO  
GET TOO FAR... I CAN  
STILL GET ANOTHER  
CRACK AT THEM!

NO SIGN OF THEM!  
HOW DO THOSE  
MADMEN GET  
AWAY SO  
FAST?

I'LL CRUISE AROUND FOR  
AWHILE / THEY MAY HAVE  
PLANNED A SERIES OF  
ROBBERIES... ONE  
AFTER  
ANOTHER!

MEANWHILE, BELOW IN AN  
APARTMENT BUILDING...

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING GOING INTO  
DAN GA--

DAN GARRET!  
IT'S YOU!  
BUT WHAT  
HAPPENED?

HI, IKE. I HAD  
A LITTLE  
ACCIDENT WHILE  
I WAS AWAY.  
I'M OKAY  
NOW!

HMM. I WONDER IF I SHOULD  
TELL LT. FISHER, DAN'S BACK?  
HE WAS MIGHTY ANXIOUS  
TO SEE HIM LAST  
TIME HE TALKED  
TO ME!

MIKE, I THINK YOUR HUNCH IS  
RIGHT. THE MADMEN ARE  
REALLY THE OLD  
FLEETER MOB  
WITH A NEW  
TWIST!

AND THEY'D  
COMPLETELY  
DROPPED OUT  
OF SIGHT!

SEE IF YOU CAN  
GET A NEW  
LINE ON  
THEM!

LT. FISHER,  
CALL FOR  
YOU!

IKE COLAR. YES! WHAT! DAN  
GARRET! YOU'RE SURE IT'S  
HIM? AND HE WENT OUT  
AGAIN! OKAY, I'LL  
HAVE SOMEONE  
OVER THERE AS  
SOON AS  
POSSIBLE!



THE COMMENTATORS ARE HAVING A FIELD DAY WITH YOU AND YOUR MISSING GUN!

I'M NOT SURPRISED! WELL, LET'S SEE HOW MUCH WORK I CAN GET DONE BEFORE TOMORROW!

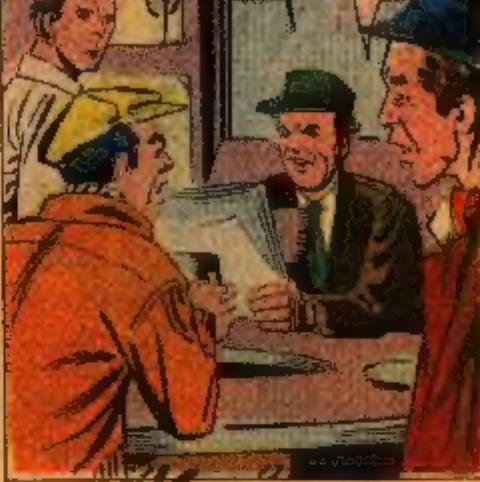
AND THE PROTESTS MOUNT DEMANDING THAT ACTION BE TAKEN AGAINST THE BLUE BEETLE!

HA HA! PEOPLE WOULD RATHER FIGHT A GOOD GUY THEY THINK IS GOING BAD THAN STAND UP TO SOMEONE THEY KNOW IS ROTTEN!

I SAY BRAND THE BEETLE AN OUTLAW!

NO ONE IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULD STAND UP TO THAT GUN-- IT'S TOO DEADLY!

WHAT KIND OF FIEND IS HE?



EARLY THE NEXT DAY...



I'M ON MY WAY! I'LL STAY IN TOUCH, TRACEY!



THAT TAKES CARE OF THE BARRIER, NOW TO OPEN THE RIVER WALL DOOR!



THE CONTROL SHOWS IT'S SAFE TO COME OUT! AND NOW TO CLOSE THE WALL DOOR.



ANOTHER WET DAY. I HOPE IT'S STILL THE MADMEN'S FAVORITE KIND OF WEATHER!

AND SURE ENOUGH AT A FEDERAL BANK.



NO! NO! TURN IT OFF!



GOT A WEAK SIGNAL NOW IT'S CUT OFF! BUT I HAVE A FIX ON IT IT'S UPTOWN!



TOO BAD I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN CLOSER... THEY HAVE A BIG LEAD!



THEY'RE PILING INTO THAT TRUCK! SO THAT'S HOW THEY GET AWAY!

NOW THAT THEY'RE ALL  
IN ONE NEAT BUNDLE  
THE BUG CAN WRAP  
THEM UP  
SECURELY!

IT'S THE BEETLE, QUICK!  
YOU ALL KNOW WHAT TO  
DO! MOVE!



EARLY THAT EVENING...

HELLO, KORD,  
DO YOU HAVE  
ANYTHING  
YOU'D LIKE  
TO TELL  
ME?

NO, LT FISHER.  
NOTH NG HAS  
CHANGED!

THEN YOU HAVEN'T  
HEARD WHAT  
ARE YOU STARIN'  
HEYIN'

YOU SEE  
HIM, TOO!  
T'S...

DAN GARRET! DAN, DAN!  
BLASTED TRAFFIC, HE  
CAN'T HEAR ME!  
FROM THE  
LOOK ON KORD'S  
FACE, HE NEVER  
EXPECTED TO  
SEE GARRET  
AGAIN  
PERIOD!

WE CAN'T GET  
THROUGH!  
GARRET'S GETTING  
INTO A VEHICLE.  
I CAN'T TELL IF  
IT'S A CAB  
OR WHAT!

DAN CAME FROM  
MY LAB. TRACEY  
MUST HAVE  
TALKED TO  
HIM

AND  
DAN  
SAID  
HE'D  
CALL  
YOU  
LATER

WE HAD A REPORT HE  
WAS IN TOWN!

BUT YOU THOUGHT  
IT WAS ME IN  
DISGUISE!  
WELL, THE  
THOUGHT HAD CROSSED  
MY MIND!

THIS SHOULD  
CLEAR TED OF  
EVERYTHING,  
LIEUTENANT.  
NOW STOP  
HOLININ'  
HIM!

LIKE KORD, I DEAL  
IN FACTS! AFTER I  
HAVE A TALK WITH  
GARRET AND I'M  
CONVINCED HE'S  
THE REAL MCCOY,  
THEN TRACEY, YOU  
CAN BOOT ME OUT  
OF YOUR LIVES.

WHY WORRY? IF IT'S GARRET  
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GO-  
ING TO REMAIN MR. UNPOPULAR  
BUT THAT'S PART OF  
MY JOB. YOU WILL  
LET ME KNOW  
IF YOU HEAR  
FROM GARRET!  
I CAN'T HELP  
LIKING H.M.,  
TRACEY. HE'S  
GOOD AT HIS  
JOB!

I DIDN'T LET  
ON TO DAN I  
KNEW ABOUT  
PAGO ISLAND  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?

WHY DID DAN  
WAIT SO LONG  
BEFORE TRYING  
TO CONTACT ME?  
HE MUST KNOW  
I'M THE NEW  
BLUE BEETLE!

ABOUT THE  
BLUE BEETLE  
TED. CAN  
THERE BE  
TWO OF  
THEM, NOW?

NO! DAN'S EARNED  
THE RIGHT FIRST.  
IF HE WANTS TO  
CONTINUE AS  
BLUE BEETLE, AS  
MUCH AS I HATE  
TO... I'LL  
DROP OUT!

WHILE ELSEWHERE .

I SPEAK FOR ALL WHO SEEK JUSTICE! THE PROOF LIES IN THE RESULTS OF PUBLIC OPINION POLLS AND I SAY THAT ALL DECENT CITIZENS DEMAND MEASURES BE TAKEN AT ONCE AGAINST THE BLUE BEETLE, SO THAT WE CAN RETURN TO A LIFE WITHOUT FEAR!

I SAY WE SHOULD START ORGANIZING PROTEST MARCHES .. AND PICKET CITY HALL!

YES, THEY'D REALIZE THEN THAT WE KNOW WHAT HAS TO BE DONE!

WE STRIKE AS LONG AS THE HEAT'S ON THE BLUE BEETLE! AFTER ALL, IT'S HIS GUN THAT'S THE REAL CRIMINAL... IT'S FORCING US TO USE IT HA! HA!

NEXT MORNING..

THE MINUTE DAN CALLS, TRACEY, CONTACT ME. I MUST TALK TO HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

IF I HAVE TO END MY SHORT CAREER NOW, I'D LIKE TO DO IT WITH A CLEAN RECORD!

AND THAT MEANS GETTING THE BEETLE GUN BACK!

MEANWHILE, ANOTHER BANK FACES THE BLUE BEETLES GUN IN THE HANDS OF THE MADMEN!

TAKE WHAT YOU WANT, BUT DON'T HARM US WITH THE GUN!

THE GUN'S IN USE AGAIN! THIS TIME I'M NOT GOING TO CHARGE IN BLINDLY! INSTEAD, I'LL HANG BACK OUT OF THEIR WAY AND -

D SPATCH MY TINY BUG TO KEEP ITS EYES ON THEM

KZZZ

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

# see through walls



## SPY PEN

### FOR REAL UNDERCOVER OPERATORS

You can keep constant check on anything that happens all around you regardless of walls, floors, or ceilings. SPY-PEN penetrates solid barriers, makes any wall or open door 'see' if even lets you look DOWN into rooms beneath you. We will let your own imagination trigger all the possible uses SPY-PEN has for you.

### A PRECISION INSTRUMENT

SPY-PEN was developed by the German Secret Service during World War II and is being used by Interpol Agents today. Now an even more precise and improved model is being offered the public by the man from UNCLE. SPY-PEN has three precision ground optical quality lenses. Not just two like competitive models to afford an extreme wide angle field that lets you even see objects standing by the very wall through which you are observing.

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### COMBINES TO POWERFUL TELESCOPE

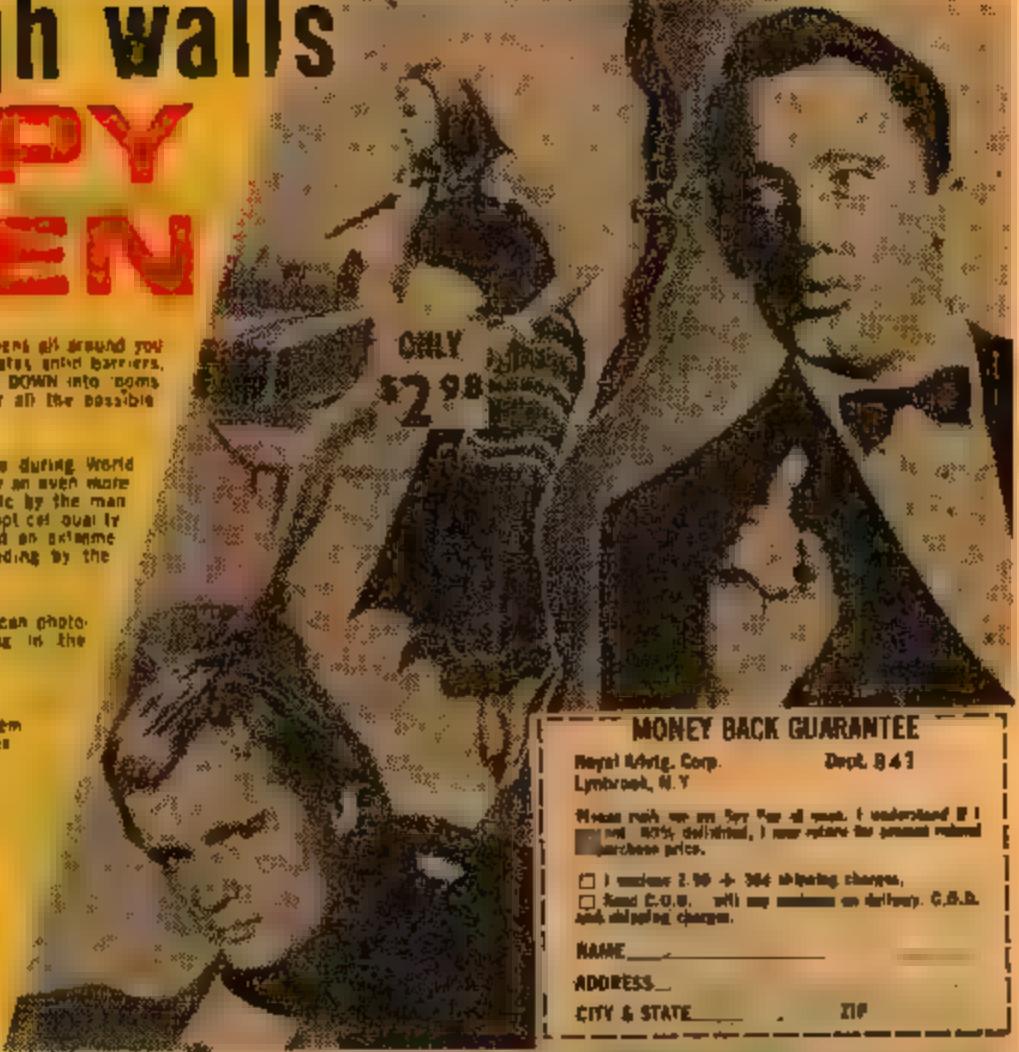
Only SPY-PEN lets you close in teleoscopically on any item of interest. No other device has both these features with angle viewable vision and close-up inspection.

### CLIPS TO YOUR POCKET

SPY-PEN looks like an ordinary fountain pen in your pocket. Even if seen it will not be suspected as the incredible instrument with such amazing powers of penetration.

COMPLETE WITH SIMPLE HOW-TO-USE  
INSTRUCTION BOOKLET

ONLY  
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Lynbrook, N.Y.

Dept. B-43

Please rush me my Spy Pen at once. I understand if I am not satisfied, I may return the pen for refund of purchase price.

I enclose \$2.98 + 36¢ shipping charges.  
 Send C.O.D. with my money on delivery. C.O.D.  
add shipping charges.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY & STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## GET THESE 20 FAMOUS WORLD WAR II FLYING AIRPLANES... ALL only \$1<sup>49</sup>

SEE THEM

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GLIDE,



SWOOP

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RELIVE EXCITING AIR BATTLES! Create your own life-like dogfights! Knock invading bombers out of the sky! Dive bomb an invading enemy! These 20 actual flying scale models of famous World War II aircraft are made of durable plastic. They can be assembled in minutes. Virtually every country, both friendly and enemy, is represented with these famous flying airplanes:

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MAIL TO: (Name) with \$1.49 today. Credit is granted.

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Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. 06418

Please rush me 20 authentic flying models of famous World War II airplanes. I have enclosed \$1.49  Check  Cash  Money Order

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

THE MADMEN ARE IN THAT TRUCK! I CAN PICK UP THEIR GLOATING VOICES NOW TO FOLLOW THEM.



SO THEY HOLE UP IN THE DESERT ED RATE'S FACTORY  
SINCE THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY OF THEM FOR ME



I MIGHT BE BETTER IF I JUST CASE THE RIDE OUT AND CALL THE POLICE!



THE POLICE CAN ROUND UP THE MADMEN AND MY GUN WILL BE OUT OF CRIMINAL HANDS AS AN EX BLUE BEETLE, I WON'T FIND MUCH USE FOR IT ANYWAY



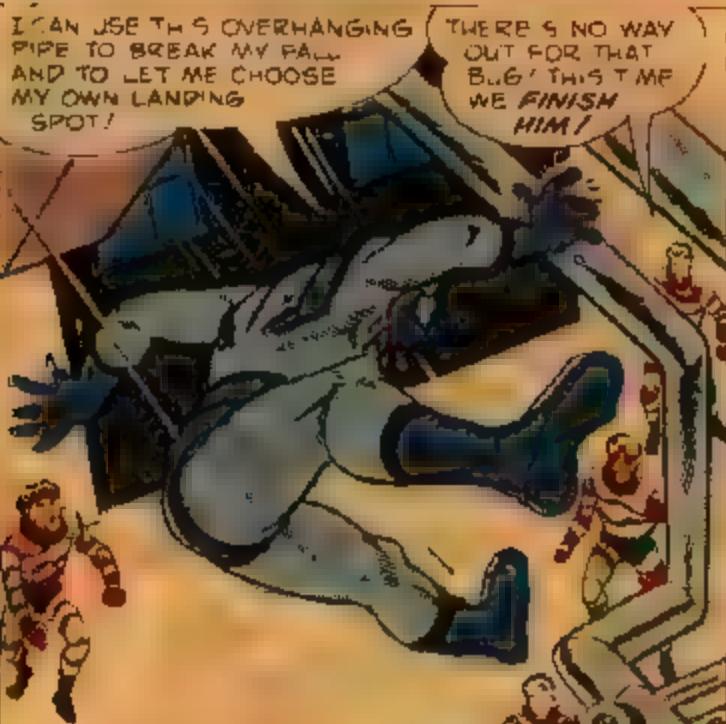
THE ALARM SIGNAL I'VE GOT COMPANY! GET READY TO INVITE HIM IN. ANY BETS ON WHO OUR BUGGY INTRUDER IS? HA HA! NOW!



THEY CHANGED MY MIND! I'LL TAKE THEM ON BY MYSELF AF ER ALL! I WAS RIGHT TO SOLD OLD PLAYMATE!

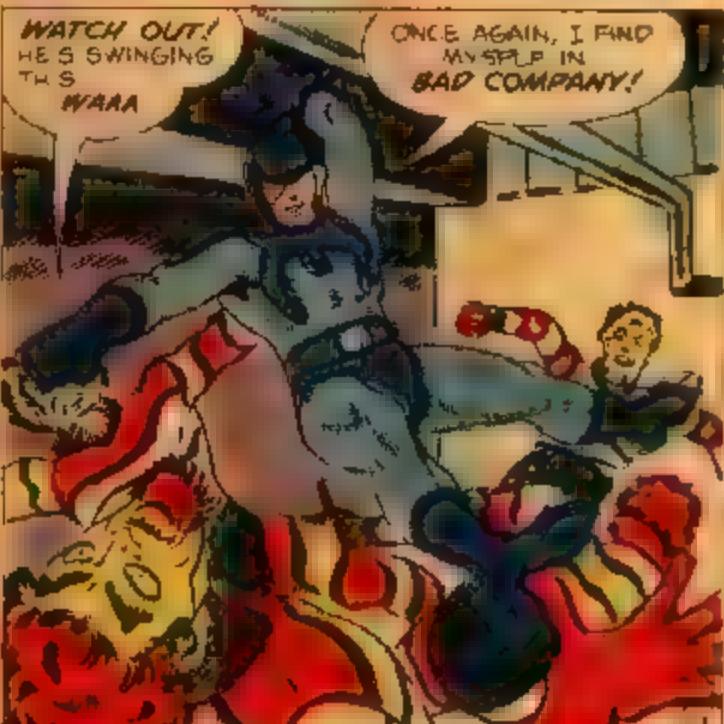


I CAN USE THIS OVERHANGING PIPE TO BREAK MY FALL AND TO LET ME CHOOSE MY OWN LANDING SPOT!

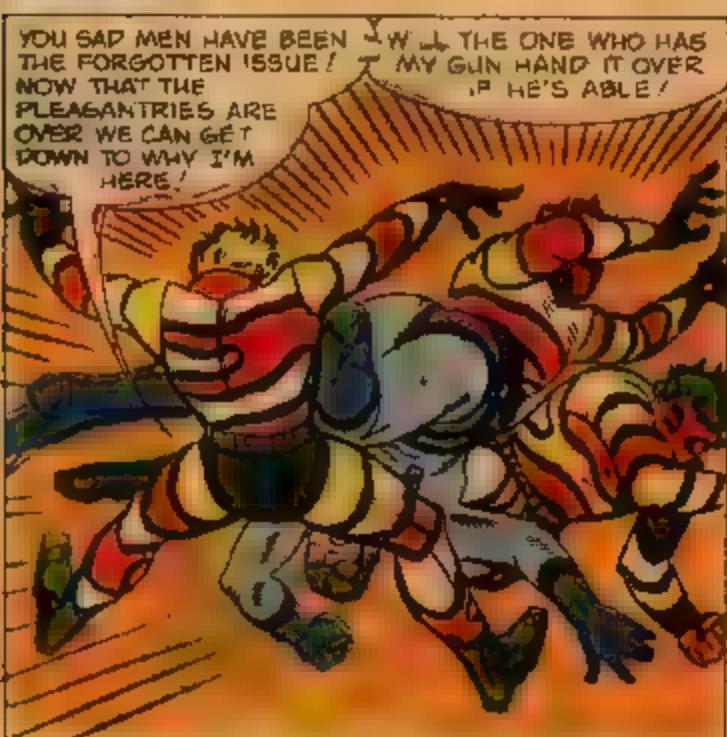
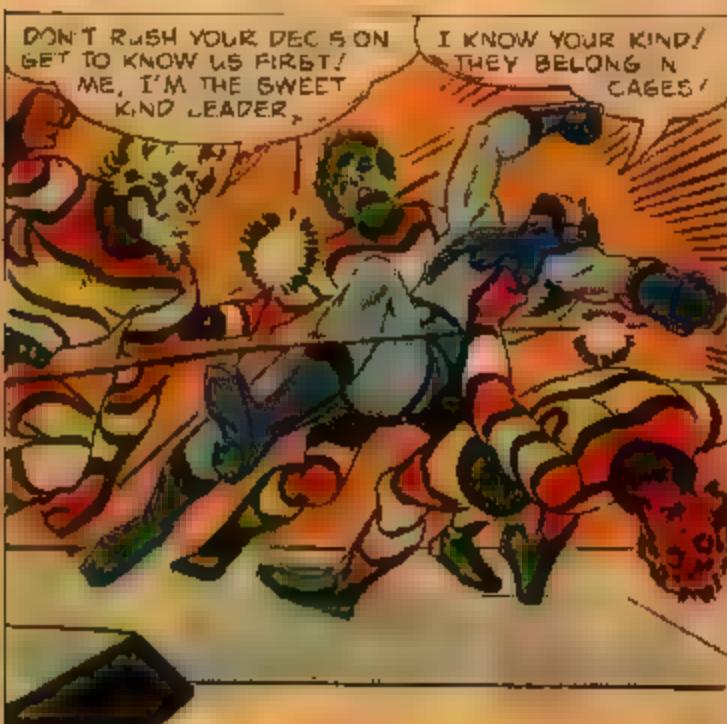


THERE'S NO WAY OUT FOR THAT BUG! THIS TIME WE FINISH HIM!

WATCH OUT! HE'S SWINGING THIS WAHA



ONCE AGAIN, I FIND MYSELF IN BAD COMPANY!



TO AN EXCLUSIVE PLACE FOR  
YOUR TYPES. I JUST KNOW  
YOU'LL HATE IT THERE, BUT  
I PROMISE I WON'T  
COME TO VISIT  
YOU!

YOU'RE TOO  
CHOKED UP TO  
ANSWER!

YOU'VE BEEN  
DREAMING LONG  
ENOUGH BEETLE,  
NOW YOU'LL  
LEARN THE  
FACTS OF  
LIFE!



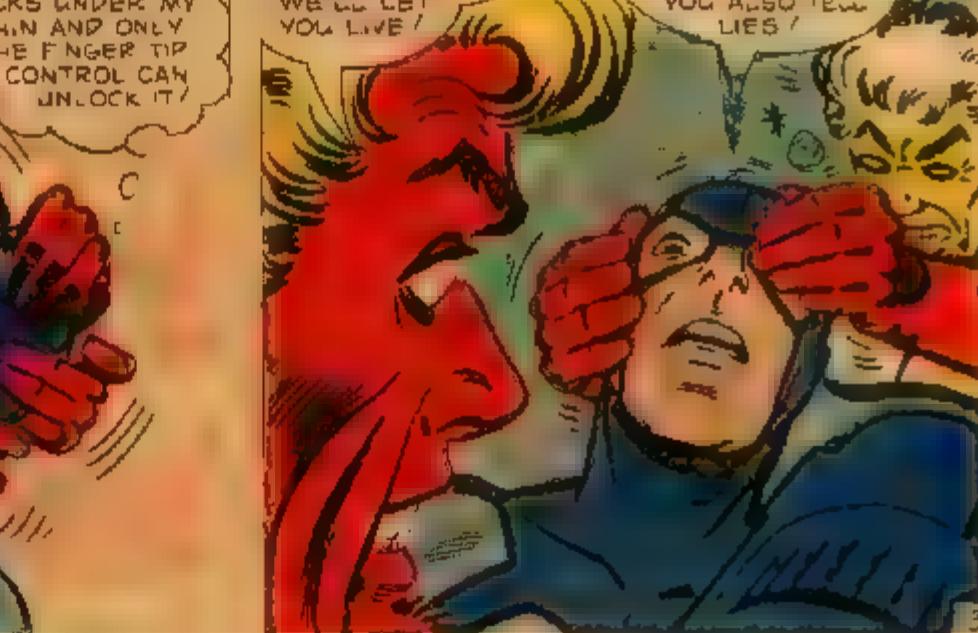
HEY, HIS MASK  
WON'T COME OFF  
AND I CAN'T  
SEE WHAT'S  
HOLDING  
IT ON!

WE CAN'T  
PULL ANY  
OF THE  
SEAMS  
APART!

WHAT THEY  
WOULDN'T GIVE  
TO KNOW MY MASK  
LOCKS UNDER MY  
CHIN AND ONLY  
THE FINGER TIP  
CONTROL CAN  
UNLOCK IT!

OKAY BEETLE TELL  
ME HOW THIS GUN  
WORKS AND  
WE'LL LET  
YOU LIVE!

MY, MY, YOU'RE NOT  
ONLY A ROTTEN THIEF  
NOW I FIND OUT  
YOU ALSO TELL  
LIES!



I GUARANTEE  
BEFORE WE'RE  
THROUGH YOU'LL  
BE TALKING  
YOUR HEAD  
OFF!

SINCE THIS ISN'T GOING  
TO BE A FRIENDLY  
DEBATE OVER THE  
ISSUES

WE'LL PLAY IT BY YOUR  
RULES USING THE LANGUAGE  
YOU UNDERSTAND. HERE'S  
MY FIRST  
STATEMENT.

WATCH OUT!  
HE ADDS



BLAST YOU!  
STAY DOWN  
YOU DIRTY  
DOG!

I MAKES ME HAPPY TO SEE  
YOU MADMEN SAD . NOW  
WE'RE ON EQUAL  
TERMS AGAIN!

BUT I'VE GOT TO WRAP THEM  
UP BEFORE THEY WEAR  
ME DOWN!

HEY WAIT THERE'S ONE  
WAY I CAN DO IT!

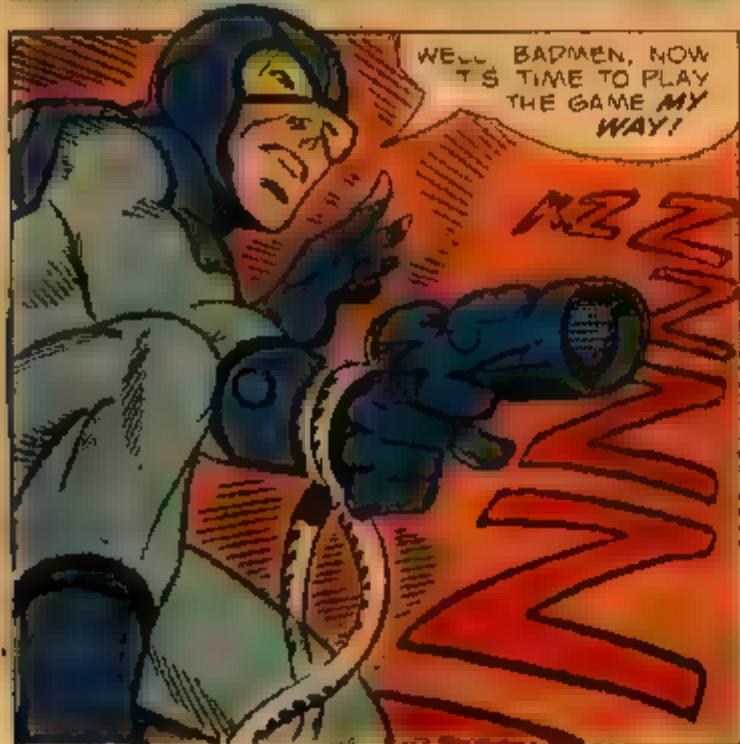
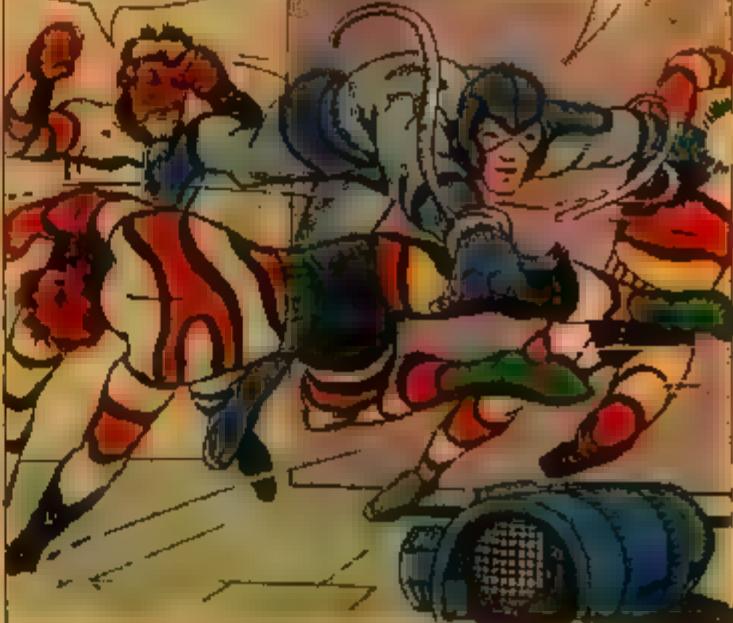
IF I CAN GET TO THE  
ONE THAT'S HOLDING  
MY GUN -- YES, I'VE  
SPOTTED HIM!

LOOK OUT! HE'S  
MAKING A PLAY  
FOR HIS GUN!

MAY I PLEASE HAVE  
MY GUN BACK?  
THANK YOU!

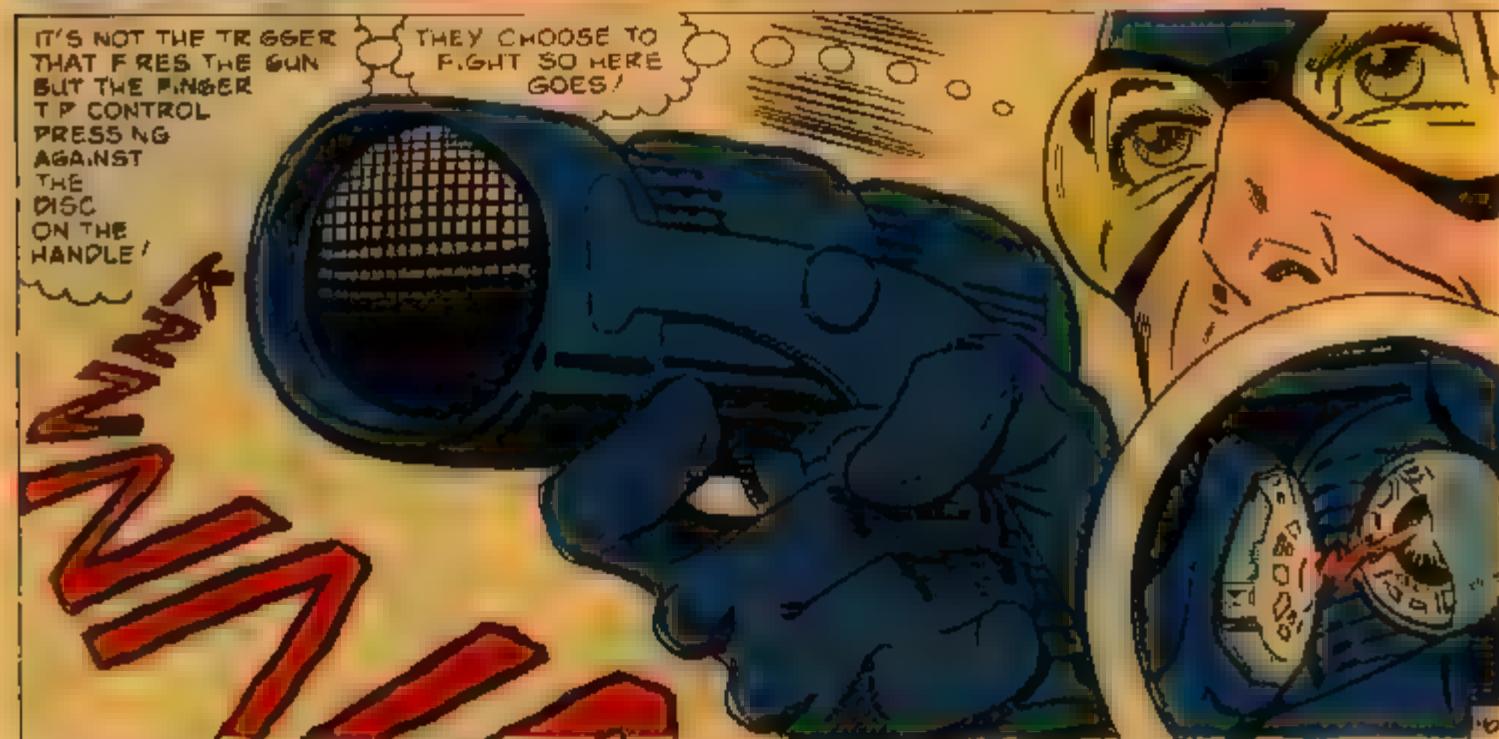
STOP HIM! HE MUSTN'T  
GET HIS HANDS ON  
THAT GUN!

REALLY? AFTER ALL  
IT IS MINE!



IT'S NOT THE TRIGGER  
THAT FRES THE GUN  
BUT THE FINGER  
TOP CONTROL  
PRESSING  
AGAINST  
THE  
DISC  
ON THE  
HANDLE!

THEY CHOOSE TO  
FIGHT SO HERE GOES!



SUDDENLY, THERE IS A BRILLIANT FLASH OF LIGHT!

WHY IT'S  
ONLY A  
FLASH  
GUN?

YOU JOKERS DON'T THINK  
I'D CARRY AROUND A  
DEADLY WEAPON?  
THIS GUN SERVES  
MY PURPOSE!

HEY, BOSS! WE  
GOT THE TRUCK  
ALL GASSED  
AN--HEY!

SHOOT HIM, HE'S ONLY  
ARMED WITH A  
FLASH GUN!

COVER YOUR EYES  
TILL WE DRAW OUR  
GUNS THEN WE'LL  
BOTH BLAST  
HIM!

EVEN IF YOU KNOW  
WHAT MY GUN CAN  
DO, IT STILL GIVES  
ME AN EDGE!

YOU'RE EITHER PUT OUT  
OF ACTION BY THE  
FLASH OR YOU  
CLOSE YOUR EYES--

AND THAT GIVES ME  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
KEEP THEM CLOSED.  
I'LL DEMONSTRATE,

TOO BAD I DIDN'T SPOT  
THIS NETTING BEFORE!  
IT WILL WRAP  
EVERYONE UP  
NICELY!

I CAN SEE  
AGA...HEY!

THE BANKS WON'T  
MESS THEIR KIND  
OF BUSINESS!

THE WAY HE'S  
DRIVING HE'LL KILL  
US BEFORE HE  
GETS US TO  
THE POLICE!

DID YOU SEE THAT?  
THE BLUE BEETLE  
DROPPED OFF THE  
MADMEN! THAT  
MEANS HE GOT  
HIS GUN BACK!

I'LL SIGNAL  
TRACEY THAT  
I'M COMIN' IN!  
SHE SHOULD  
HAVE GOOD NEWS  
FOR ME

HARRUMPY I  
WAS NEVER ONE  
OF THOSE WHO  
WAS AGAINST  
THE BLUE  
BEETLE!

NOR I -  
I ALWAYS  
ADORED  
BLUE!

STILL NO  
WORD FROM  
DAN!  
I GUESS LT. FISHER  
HASN'T FOUND H.M.  
YET OR HE'D  
HAVE  
CALLED

WHAT'S HOLDING DAN BACK,  
YOU'D THINK HE'D BE  
JUST AS ANXIOUS  
TO SEE AND  
TALK TO YOU!

IT'S  
PUZZLING!

IT LEAVES EVERYTHING  
UP IN THE AIR - WHAT  
ARE YOU GOING  
TO DO, TED?

JUST TAKE THINGS  
AS THEY COME I  
CAN'T MAKE LONG  
RANGE DECISIONS  
UNTIL I TALK TO  
DAN. THEN WHAT  
EVER HAS TO BE  
DONE, I'LL BE  
PREPARED  
TO DO IT!

NEXT ISSUE

NEW VILLAINS, MORE  
EXCITING ADVENTURE  
AND THRILLS. AND IF  
YOU'RE INTERESTED -  
THE MYSTERY OF  
DAN GARRET  
UNFOLDS.

END

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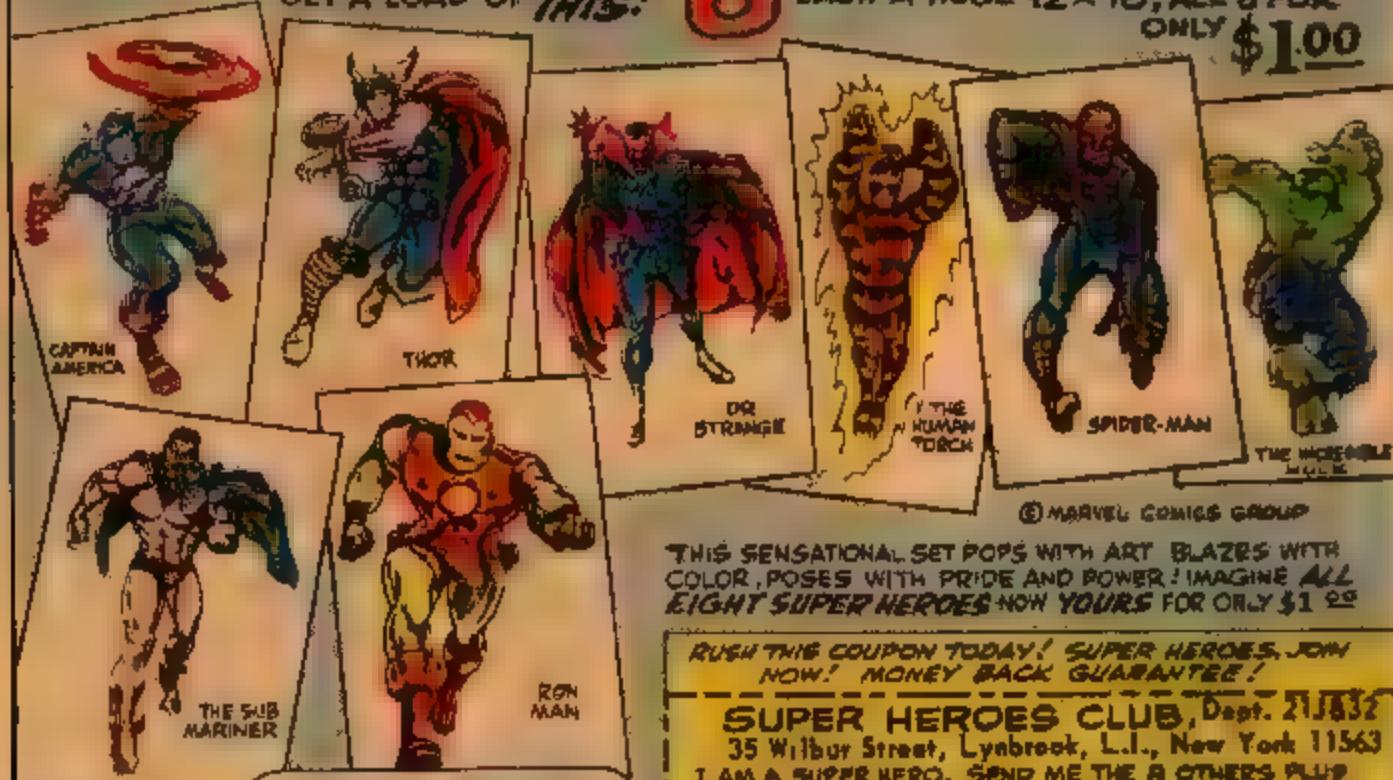
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of a member of the Super Heroes Club.



# the BEETLE'S NEST

ADDRESS MAIL TO: THE BEETLE'S NEST  
CHARLTON COMICS GROUP, DERBY, CONN. 06418

Dear Editor:

Wow! I'm doing cartwheels and back-flips! You're probably wondering why I'm doing such things. Well, wouldn't you do the same if you were waiting for the newest, greatest act on-hero to get his own mag., hence, one week later there it is. Big as life, THE (new) BLUE BEETLE now in his own mag! Sure you would. Everybody would. Wouldn't they?

Also I'd like you guys to know that your comics have improved immensely in the past year. There was a time when I thought your mags were about the poorest on the stands. But I stuck with you; for I knew there would come a day when CHARLTON COMICS would rise to the top of its profession. Of course, I was correct as usual. Just keep up the good work and you may even conquer the world before MARVEL.

Uncle Bob

Pittsfield, Mass. 01201

Thanks for the kind words, Uncle Bob! But who wants to conquer the world? —wouldn't know what to do with it! We're just trying to put out a decent comic.

Dear Editor:

BLUE BEETLE #1 aside from the fact that there was a little trouble with the thought balloons, was excellent. From cover to cover Steve Ditko's art was as good if not better than ever.

With the first issue of most superhero comics there are always a few basic questions that arise. I would like to see how well I can do answering them myself.

Q. Will you be giving out any original art?

A. No

Q. Will you feature BB in a story with one of your other action-heroes such as Captain Atom?

A. Yes

Q. Why not reprint some of the old BB stories?

A. We'll think about it. Well, how did I do?

Talking about questions, I felt the Queston story in BB #1 was a good strip even if Professor Rodor and Celia Star, who were on the first page's cast of characters were not in the story. The Question story reminded me very much of a golden age hero, with fast action and an average of eight panels a page (most new comics have six or less). At the end of the story a super hero called The Banshee is listed to appear in the spot where the Queston story was, does this mean that there will be no more Queston stories or will he be put in the spot where the short story of BB's in Captain Atom comics?

Dave Capan

1640 Sherbourne Dr.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90035

The answers to your first three questions are no, no and no in that order. To further clarify this; we don't give out original art...we need it! Now, don't jump down our throats...we have made exceptions to this no art bit but only when certain factors were present which made it possible to do so. Don't ask us to explain, it's too complicated. Suffice it to say these certain factors are not present in BB art!

Internal problems make it difficult to do team-ups or reprints at this time.

Now The Question; Professor Rodor and Celia will appear in subsequent issues. We couldn't ram everybody into the first episode. The Banshee is not a super-hero...he's a villain whom The Question battles in BLUE BEETLE #2. You've probably read it by now...right?

Dear Editor:

In the winter of 1939 Fox Features published the first issue of BLUE BEETLE. That was before my time, but I managed to purchase a couple of issues from dealers. It is interesting to note that the costume changed little during its run of publication.

In June, 1964 Charlton's first BLUE BEETLE came out. The only change in costume from that of the 40's was the mask and red stripes on the head.

This Blue Beetle was perhaps better than the first because the stories were not meant to be propaganda. Instead, the second Blue Beetle fought supernatural and science-fiction menaces like the Mummy, Mr Thunderbolt, Praying Mantis Man, Menter, Magno Man, and the Eye of Horus. Even though the stories were good better than average, Charlton's Blue Beetle suffered because of art work. Small wonder then that after the March, 1966 issue, Dan Garrett, the Blue Beetle went into comic book limbo for the second time.

But, as they say "You can't keep a good man down." This was the case with the Blue Beetle. CAPTAIN ATOM #83 gave us a seven page story of still another Blue Beetle, this time however, with an excellent script by Gary Friedrich and art by Steve Ditko. It is interesting to note a costume change, and a welcome one. The old one, just one shade of blue with a little red and black, seemed terribly dull for a hero like Blue Beetle. The new one, a though entirely blue—light blue and dark—seems to fit the new Blue Beetle's personality.

So I followed Blue Beetle through Captain Atom until I read that soon Blue Beetle would be in his own book. Now I have it. It's even better than I thought it would be. If future issues are like this, this Blue Beetle will be around for several years.

I also noted another new hero, The Question. I have a hunch that he'll prove successful as so. Although he reminds me of the Spirit it's far superior because of its seriousness while the Spirit is slightly humorous. If The Question doesn't have his own book a year from now, I'll be surprised. This character has great potential.

Long live the Third Blue Beetle. May he live 1000 issues.

Gene Reed  
2128 Lynn Road  
Huntsville, Ala.

Yeah, well, we'll settle for 500 issues, but thanks for the words of praise...we don't mind having our egos fed!

## the QUESTION

PLOTTED AND DRAWN  
BY: STEVE DITKO  
SCR.PT BY:  
D.C GLANZMAN

THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE! HOW COULD ONE OF  
THE 4 SQUARE CONSTRUCTION OWNERS BE  
DROWNED...SIX STORIES ABOVE STREET LEVEL?

THE NIGHT  
BEFORE  
CLAIMS HE  
SAW A DEEP  
SEA DIVER  
RUNNING AWAY  
FROM THE  
SITE! HE  
MUST HAVE  
BEEN PUTTIN  
US ON!

LATER, AT THE OFFICES OF THE  
4 SQUARE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

10 YEARS AGO, WHEN WE WERE IN THE  
SALVAGE BUSINESS, WE GOT RID OF  
PIKE IN A FADED DIVING ACCIDENT.  
NOW IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE IS OUT  
TO GET US...BUT I DON T BELIEVE  
IN GHOSTS!

MAYBE ONE OF YOU IS  
GETTING CUTE AGAIN  
--OR BOTH!

WE CAN T RISK  
FIGHTING AMONG  
OURSELVES. WE RE  
ALL IN THIS  
TOGETHER. SOMEONE  
FROM THE OLD DAYS  
MIGHT BE THINKING  
HE KNOWS SOMETHING  
AND IS TRYING TO  
PANIC US.

DON T  
FORGET, VIC  
SAGE IS  
D GOING  
INTO OUR  
OPERATIONS  
AND WE'VE  
CUT QUITE  
A FEW  
CORNERS!

WE HAVE TO  
ACT LIKE WE  
HAVE NOTHING  
TO HIDE AND  
PLAN IT  
STRAIGHT!

BUT SAGE LIKES TO  
DIG DEEP. IF HE  
COMES UP WITH  
ANYTHING WE HAVE  
TO BE PREPARED  
TO BUY HIM OFF  
...OR FIX HIM  
ANOTHER WAY!

MEANWHILE, AT THE WORLD-WIDE  
BROADCASTING...

SAGE, QUIT TRYING  
TO MAKE NEWS  
YOUR JOB IS JUST  
TO REPORT EVENTS  
THAT HAPPEN.  
STOP STEPPING OUT  
OF LINE.

SYD, YOU RE  
NOT QUALI-  
FIED TO DRAW  
BOUNDARIES  
AROUND MY  
JOB!

EVERS, I TOLD  
YOU I WON T DEAL  
WITH YOU TILL  
YOU PAY BACK  
THAT LOAN.

YOU WON T  
MISS IT,  
SAGE, YOU  
MAKE PLENTY  
OFF THE  
SPONSOR I  
REPRESENT!

ONE WORD FROM  
ME, SAGE, AND  
MY SPONSOR  
WILL DROP YOU  
--CAN YOU  
AFFORD TO  
LOSE THAT MUCH?

GET LOST,  
EVERS, TILL  
YOU'RE READY  
TO PAY UP.

OKAY, MONEY HUNGRY, YOU'LL GET YOUR DOUGH!

WELL, LET'S SEE WHAT OUR NEWEST MEMBER TO THE HATE SAGE CLUB CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SAGE'S DOWNFALL!

LOOK, EVER SINCE YOU TALK YOUR SPONSOR INTO DROPPING SAGE AND WE'LL FIX YOU UP WITH A NEW SHOW... AT PRIME TIME!

IT'S NO USE, SYD, MY STUPID SPONSOR WANTS SAGE, PERIOD! HE'D DUMP ME BEFORE SAGE!

THAT'S THE DATA, VIC. THE BOYS DUG BACK INTO THE A SQUARE OPERATORS SINCE THEY FIRST TEAMED UP.

GOOD! I'LL GO OVER THIS TONIGHT... RIGHT NOW I WANT TO SEE HOW WORRIED THEY ARE OVER AT A SQUARE.

LATER, AT THE A SQUARE OFFICES...

ONLY MR. CRANE'S HERE BUT YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON HE'D WANT TO TALK TO, SAGE! SO BEAT IT!

YOU'D BE SURPRISED AT WHAT HE JUST TOLD ME!

WHILE IN THE OFFICE OF MR. CRANE...



NO! NO! HELP!

MR. CRANE!

COME ON, BEFORE YOU'RE DOWN TO 2 BOSSSES!

WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'D ALL THAT WATER COME FROM?

A TRAIL LEADS TO THE OTHER DOOR--TAKE CARE OF CRANE---

THE DIVER! I'VE GOT A GOOD CHANCE TO NAB HIM BUT I'D BETTER NOT DO IT AS VIC SAGE!



THE QUEST ON CAN DO THE JOB THEN DISAPPEAR WHEREAS VIC SAGE WOULD BE TIED UP TELLING AND RETELLING WHAT HAPPENED TO EVERY INQUISITIVE SOUL.

THE MASK IS ON, NOW TO RELEASE THE GAS THAT WILL GIVE ME AN INSTANT CHANGE OF IDENTITY!



HE'S HEADING FOR THE RIVER AND  
FOR SOMEONE WEARING A DIVING RIB.  
HE MOVES ANFULLY FAST.



I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE  
REACHES THE END OF THE PIER!



HE WON'T GO  
ANYWHERE, ONCE  
HE IS OFF HIS  
FEET.



THAT SLUT'S A FAKE. A KICK BY A  
REAL LEAD SHOE WOULD HAVE FIN  
SHED ME



MM...? HE'S TRYING TO DROWN  
ME WITH WATER FROM HIS GLOVES  
GLUB



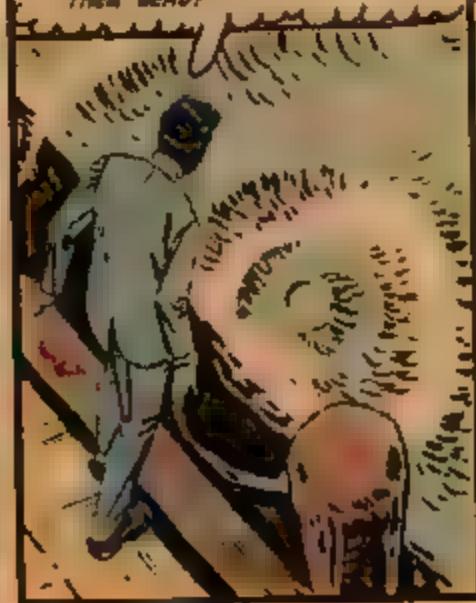
I...I MANAGED TO RELEASE SOME GAS  
AND I SHOOK HIM ENOUGH TO MAKE  
HIM LET UP FOR A SECOND.



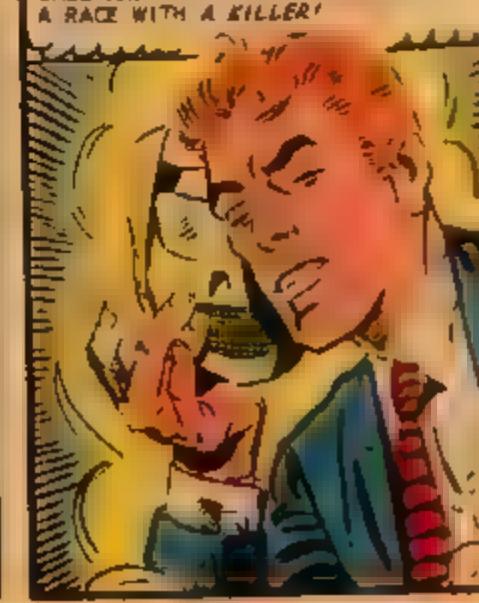
AND THAT'S ALL THE TIME I NEED  
OH, OH! I DIDN'T REALIZE WE  
WERE SO CLOSE TO THE EDGE  
HE'LL GET AWAY NOW!



LOOKS LIKE I HAVE COMPETITION!  
SOMEONE ELSE IS OUT TO GET THE  
4 SQUARE BUNCH---ONLY HE DOESN'T  
WANT THEM IN JAIL-- HE WANTS  
THEM DEAD!



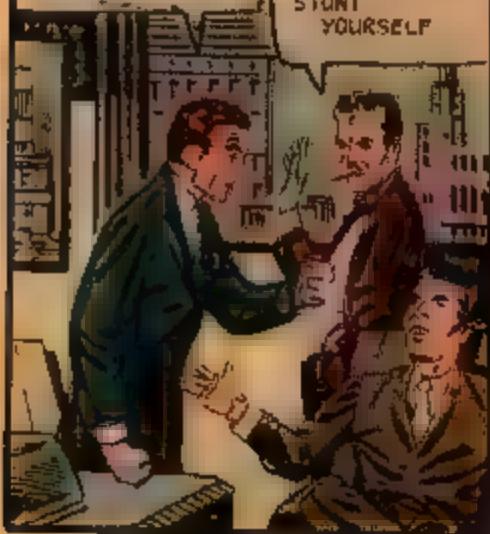
THE INFORMATION MY STAFF ONE MIGHT  
PROVIDE A CLUE AS TO THE  
IDENTITY OF THIS DIVER OF DEATH.  
I'D BETTER CHANGE BACK TO VICE  
SAGE AND GET A MOVE ON... I'M IN  
A RACE WITH A KILLER!



SOMETIME LATER AT THE OFFICE OF  
THE 4 SQUARE...

NOW DO I REALLY  
KNOW ONE OF YOU  
AREN'T OUT TO  
GET RID OF ME?

NUTS! HOW DO  
WE KNOW YOU  
DIDN'T STAGE  
THE WHOLE  
STUNT  
YOURSELF



YOU'RE CRAZY!  
DO I ALSO  
PLAN FOR SAGE  
TO BE HERE?

LET'S STOP  
NEEDLING EACH  
OTHER AND TRY  
TO FIGURE OUT  
WHO THIS D VEN  
IS AND HOW TO  
STOP HIM...AND  
SAGE,



THAT NIGHT— THE VICTIMS MOUNT--

NOW NUMBER 3 AND THEN THE PARTNER  
SHIP IS NO MORE! AFTER I PROVIDE  
THE POLICE WITH THEIR MURDERER,  
I'LL BE SAFE AND RICH. I'VE  
PLANNED EVERYTHING PERFECTLY!



MEANWHILE, OLD RECORDS SHED A NEW  
LEAD...

THE OLD SALVAGE OPERATIONS... IF  
ANY OF THOSE DIVERS ARE AROUND,  
THEY COULD BE THE KEY TO  
EVERYTHING.



THE QUESTION TAKES OVER THE  
SEARCH!

THEIR SALVAGE OPERATIONS WERE  
SOMEWHERE ALONG THIS DESERTED  
DOCK. NOT MUCH CHANCE OF FIND-  
ING ANYONE AROUND BUT STILL...



WHO'S THAT? CAN'T SEE HIS FACE  
BUT HE'S NO DIVER! HE'S  
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING! MAYBE  
HE IS A COP... OR SAGE. WELL I  
CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY CHANCES,  
NOT NOW



SO HE'S GOT TO DIE!



THAT SNEAK ATTACK GAVE  
THE DIVER A CHANCE TO  
GET A HOLD ON ME



GOT TO... BREAK FREE... CAN'T LET  
HIM HOLD ME DOWN HERE...



IF I CAN... JUST SHOVE HIM AWAY  
...WITH MY FEET...



THAT D D IT! IT'S SO DARK DOWN  
HERE HE WON'T KNOW WHERE I'VE  
GONE!



HE HASN'T COME UP! I'D SURE  
LKE TO KNOW WHERE HE IS!



THAT'S THE OLD SALVAGE OPERATIONS  
SHACK! IT LOOKS LIKE NO ONE'S  
BEEN THERE FOR YEARS...



MAYBE SOME RECORDS---WHAT---  
STRANGE! HIS BODY IS TOO  
RIGID TO BE ASLEEP!



HE IS ALIVE BUT HE'S UNDER  
A DRUG! I'LL BETTING HE  
MADE THAT DIVING SUIT!



HMM. BILLS FOR PARTS AND EQUIP-  
MENT. THIS GUY IS BEING MADE A  
FALL GUYS WAIT! ON TH S OLD  
PAD--A RECENTLY WRITTEN TELEPHONE  
NUMBER!



I CAN T AFFORD TO LET EITHER ONE  
OF THEM LIVE, ESPECIALLY MY EX-  
HELPER-- I'LL HAVE TO WORK OUT  
A NEW PLAN!



I WAS GOING TO PUT THAT DRUGGED  
FOOL IN THIS SUIT HE MADE FOR  
ME AND THEN KILL HIM, MAKING IT  
LOOK LIKE SELF-DEFENSE. HE'D  
GET BLAMED FOR KILLING ALL THE  
OTHERS AND I'D BE IN THE CLEARI



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THE FLOOR IS ROTTEN--I CAN BREAK  
THROUGH



I HOPE THE SMOKE COVERS OUR  
DROP. I'M SURE THE DIVER IS  
WATCHING TO MAKE SURE THE FIRE  
GETS US!



WE GOT PAST HIM-- I'LL LEAVE THIS  
GUY FOR THE FIREFMEN TO TAKE CARE  
OF.



I CAN STILL PUT THE BLAME ON  
JAKE. HE HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST  
US UNTIL I TALKED HIM INTO THIS.  
I CAN STILL CONVINCE THE POLICE  
HE WAS BEHIND IT ALL.



ONCE I GET RID OF THIS SUIT--  
WHAAA---A CARD HANGING FROM THE  
CEILING



SOMETHING APPEARING... A QUESTION  
THE QUESTION!



YOU THINK THAT SUIT WILL SAVE  
YOU FROM THE HOT WATER YOU'RE IN?



WAIT! YOU'RE NOT THE LAW--WE  
CAN GET TOGETHER AND MAKE A  
DEAL!



BELIEVE ME, I CAN MAKE IT WORTH  
YOUR WHILE---



LOOK, I GOT YOU GRAND HERE---  
IT'S ALL YOURS--- TAKE IT!



I'LL CUT YOU IN . MAKE YOU A  
FULL PARTNER! JUST YOU AND ME,  
WE'LL MAKE MILLIONS!



TURN ME DOWN,  
WILL YA? THEN  
I'LL NEVER  
LEAVE HERE  
ALIVE!



WITH YOU OUT OF  
THE WAY, NOBODY  
WILL HAVE ANY-  
THING AGAINST ME

IT'S OUT OF  
YOUR HANDS,  
MR. CRANE.  
THE GUY I  
PULLED OUT OF  
THE FIRE WILL  
TALK!



AND YOU WON'T BE  
NEEDING THIS  
PHONEY COSTUME  
ANY LONGER.



YOU CAN T SEND  
ME TO PRISON  
NOT NOW! I OWN  
EVERYTHING!

YOU GOT IT  
WRONG!  
PRISON IS NOT  
WHERE I WANT  
TO SEND YOU!



IT'S THE ELECTRIC CHAIR. YOU  
WORKED HARD TO PROVE YOU  
DESERVE TO SIT IN IT!



THE FOOL ONLY THOUGHT OF WHAT  
HE COULD GAIN---NOT WHAT IT  
WOULD COST HIM IF HE FAILED---  
NOW TO CALL THE POLICE!



Don't Miss The Next  
Exciting Adventure Of  
The Question!  
It'll Be A Goodie!

END

?

# ACTION-HEROES? WE GOT 'EM!!!



THUNDERBOLT

THE  
PEACEKEEPER



JUDO  
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the  
BLUE  
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5 OF 'EM  
TO BE EXACT...  
AND THEY'RE  
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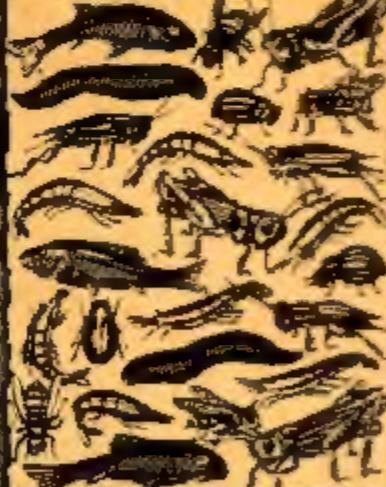
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